Application of: Martin W. Karabees

Serial No.: 10/708,630

Amendment B

REMARKS

Applicant notes with appreciation that Claims 23-37, 43-46 and 50-57 are allowed.

Applicant also notes that Claims 5-8, 11-22, 40-42, 48 and 49 are merely objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In this regard, Applicant has amended independent Claim 1 to include the allowable subject matter of objected claim 5; Applicant has amended independent claim 38 to include the allowable subject matter of objected Claim 41; and Applicant has amended independent Claim 47 to include the allowable subject matter of objected Claim 49. Applicant has also added new Claim 58 which is objected Claim 14 rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of Claim 1. Dependent Claim 14 includes allowable subject matter.

Applicant has also amended dependent Claims 6, 7 and 42 to reflect proper dependency; dependent Claim 14 has been amended to correct a typographical error; and Claims 5, 41 and 49 have been cancelled.

It is now believed that all of the pending claims in the present application, namely, Claims 1-4, 6-40, 42-48 and 50-58 contain limitations and restrictions which patentably distinguish them over the cited prior art. None of the cited references, either alone or in any combination thereof, disclose or suggest all of the novel features associated with the present constructions, nor do the prior art constructions provide the specific advantages and objectives obtained by the present invention. Favorable action and allowance of the claims is therefore respectfully requested.

17

Application of: Martin W. Karabees

Serial No.: 10/708,630

Amendment B

If any issue regarding the allowability of any of the pending claims in the present application could be readily resolved, or if other action could be taken to further advance this application such as an Examiner's amendment, or if the Examiner should have any questions regarding the present amendment, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner please telephone Applicant's undersigned attorney in this regard.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: OJAN OB

Samuel Digirolamo

Reg. No. 29,915

Blackwell Sanders Peper Martin LLP

720 Olive Street, Suite 2400

St. Louis, MO 63101

314-345-6000

ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT